

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

[To accompany bill S 492.]

LETTERS

FROM THE

COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE,

IN REFERENCE TO

*Certain private land claims in the Territory of New Mexico.*

FEBRUARY 6, 1857.—Ordered to be printed.

GENERAL LAND OFFICE, *January 6, 1857.*

SIR: The surveyor general of New Mexico, under date of the 30th November last, transmitted to this office the following documents, to wit: The claim of the pueblo of Zia, numbered 14, which should have been numbered 17; the claim of the pueblo of Nambe, numbered 15, which should have been numbered 18; the claim of the pueblo of Sandia, numbered 16, which should have been numbered 19; the claim of the pueblo of Isleta, numbered 17, which should have been numbered 20; which have been filed in the surveyor general's office since the 30th September last, the date of his last annual report to this office, and which, together with the then accompanying papers, was transmitted by this office to the department, and constituted a part of the annual report from this office dated 29th November last.

The foregoing claims have been examined and approved by the surveyor general; have been transmitted here, with the request that the same be made part of those which accompanied his annual report, as aforesaid, submitted to Congress for their action.

The surveyor general forwarded at the same time an additional document, styled "Notice pertaining to private claim No. 3 of Francisco Martinez," which, through inadvertence, failed to accompany the papers constituting that claim, transmitted with his annual report, as aforesaid, and which document he now requests may be placed where it properly belongs.

In accordance with the above request, I have, therefore, the honor to transmit the above mentioned papers *in duplicates*, so that the same

may be submitted by the department to both houses of Congress for their action thereupon.

With great respect, your obedient servant,

THOMAS A. HENDRICKS,  
*Commissioner.*

Hon. R. McCLELLAND,  
*Secretary of the Interior.*

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GENERAL LAND OFFICE,  
*January 19, 1857.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication referring to a bill you have introduced for the adjudication of private land claims in the Territory of New Mexico, and desiring the views of this office in the premises.

I have therefore to state that, in my judgment, it is of great and indispensable importance to that Territory that summary proceedings should be speedily authorized by law looking to the prompt adjudication of the private land claims in New Mexico; that measure, indeed, being necessary in order properly to separate them from the public domain, and enable the Executive to dispose of the public lands hereafter without danger of conflict.

The bill you informally exhibited to this office, with some amendment then suggested, would perhaps satisfactorily accomplish the adjudication.

With great respect, your obedient servant,

THOS. A. HENDRICKS,  
*Commissioner.*

Hon. MIGUEL A. OTERO,  
*House of Representatives.*

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GENERAL LAND OFFICE,  
*January 30, 1857.*

SIR: I have the honor to return herewith Senate bill 492, "To ascertain and settle the private land claims in the Territory of New Mexico," which, with your letter of the 23d instant to the Secretary of the Interior, has been referred to this office, as to the necessity of the proposed legislation. Upon that subject I beg leave respectfully to state, that in the opinion of this office the proposed legislation is necessary in order properly to adjudicate titles to and separate private property under treaty from the public domain. In regard to this matter I beg to enclose herewith a copy of a letter of 19th instant, to the honorable Mr. Otero, delegate from New Mexico.

With great respect, your obedient servant,

THOS. A. HENDRICKS,  
*Commissioner.*

Hon. CHARLES E. STUART,  
*Chairman of Committee on Public Lands, U. S. Senate.*